

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-04 /008 W
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R 201022 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6576

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0694

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, BM

SUBJECT: VISAS: PASSPORT WAIVER: ADVISORY OPINION

REF: (A) RANGOON 0677 (NOTAL); (B) RANGOON A-31, MARCH 13, 1973;
(C) RANGOON OM TO BANGKOK, MARCH 7, 1973, INFO V. O.

1. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS REF (A) WHICH REQUESTS PASSPORT WAIVERS FOR BURMESE CITIZENS WHO DESIRE TO LEAVE BURMA ILLEGALLY VIA THAILAND BECAUSE THEY CANNOT OR WILL NOT PAY INCREASED EDUCATION DEPARTURE TAX IMPOSED BY GUB (REF B, RANGOON WEEKA NO. 10, ITEM 8). IN BOTH CASES IN REF (A), THE SPOUSE AND CHILDREN OF PRINCIPAL ALIEN HOLD BRITISH PASSPORTS AND CAN LEAVE BURMA LEGALLY IF US IMMIGRANT VISA IS ISSUED. HOWEVER, EMBASSY CANNOT ISSUE VISAS TO DERIVATIVE BENEFICIARIES UNTIL AFTER VISA ISSUED TO PRINCIPAL. EACH PRINCIPAL ALIEN, WHO CANNOT LEAVE BURMA LEGALLY WITHOUT PASSPORT, STATED PLANS TO CROSS BORDER INTO THAILAND AND GO TO BANGKOK WHERE HE WILL ASK AMEMBASSY TO HAVE HIS VISA FILE TRANSFERRED THERE.

2. REF (C) INFORMED BANGKOK AND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SITUATION. AMEMBASSY BANGKOK SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR RANGOON TO ISSUE VISAS WITH PASSPORT WAIVER, RATHER THAN FOR VISAS TO BE ISSUED IN BANGKOK.

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS OF ISSUING VISAS TO ANY BURMESE CITIZEN WHO DOES NOT POSSESS A PASSPORT AND STATES HIS INTENTION TO DEPART FROM BURMA ILLEGALLY. SHOULD SUCH PERSON BE CAPTURED WHILE LEAVING COUNTRY ILLEGALLY AND ADMIT TO GUB THAT AMERICAN CONSUL HERE HAD TOLD HIM HE COULD HAVE VISA FILE
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TRANSFERRED TO BANGKOK, EMBASSY RANGOON MIGHT BE ACCUSED BY GUB
OF CONSPIRING TO CONTRAVENE BURMESE EMIGRATION LAW.

4. POLITICAL SITUATION IN BURMA IS SIMILAR TO THAT DESCRIBED
IN APPENDIX A 22 CFR 42-6-, NOTE 1, EXCEPT THAT BURMA CANNOT BE
CLASSIFIED AS COMMUNIST- CONTROLLED.

5. DEPARTMENT' S ADVISORY OPINION IS REQUESTED IN THE ABOVE
SITUATION.
MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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